



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

brings us to the minor premise of Mr. Kidd's argument, and it turns out to be absolutely false. His major premise, as was observed, is the assumption that stress of life is the original cause of progress. The false minor premise is, that at any given time the victims of progress who know that they are victims and want to put an end to progress are numerous enough to put the wish into effect, if unrestrained by supernatural or at least ultra-rational sanctions. Nothing could be more untrue to fact. Suppose that of one hundred families now living, all but ten will have become extinct in the tenth generation. That would be natural selection at a great pace, yet, at that rate, but ten families will drop out in each generation; and if we suppose that only ten new families appear in each generation, there will still be, at all times, ninety families able to hold their own, to ten that are expiring. In most cases the families destined to extinction cannot possibly know the fact two or three generations in advance. At any given time, therefore, a majority expect life; they are for the time being fairly well adjusted to the conditions of life, and have no complaint to make against progress. Yet all the while the inexorable process of natural selection goes on, and progress is assured. Five minutes' study of a life-insurance expectation table might have shown Mr. Kidd on what a foundation of sand he was building.

Altogether, then, Mr. Kidd's book is a curious mixture of truth and fallacy. But it is an interesting book, and stimulating. It will make a great many people do more serious thinking in sociology than they have ever done before.

FRANKLIN H. GIDDINGS.

Socialism. — An Examination of its Nature, its Strength and its Weakness, with Suggestions for Social Reform. By RICHARD T. ELY, Ph.D., LL.D. New York and Boston, Thomas Y. Crowell & Co., 1894. — 449 pp.

The appearance of Dr. Ely's readable book is singularly apt at this time. Students of social science and the actual promoters of the socialistic propaganda are perhaps the only persons in our country who understand scientific socialism at first-hand from the writings of its great leaders, Owen, Marx, Engels, Louis Blanc, Lassalle and others. A large majority of the American people know socialism only from the newspapers and from the speeches of labor agitators. It is much the same with the movement toward social reform in general. In all our great cities, small bodies of earnest men and women may indeed be found devoted to this or that practical reform; but for the most part they are absorbed in their own work

exclusively, and forget that other bodies of reformers have like good aims. Dr. Ely in his present work, therefore, renders a service to the American reading and thinking public in two distinct ways. First he tells us what scientific socialism is, what criticism it has to make of the existing order of society, and what it believes it can accomplish for mankind. Secondly, he brings under our immediate notice all the various plans for social improvement now agitated, shows us their strong and their weak points, and tells us of their present progress and probable future.

Both as an expositor and a critic Dr. Ely shows fairness and breadth of judgment ; his position throughout being neither that of a hard and fast conservative, nor that of an extreme radical, but rather that of a social reformer. Holding fast to what is good in the present, Dr. Ely would simply point out to us the avenues of approach to the still better promised under a more socialistic régime. He deals with the question of "Socialism as a Scheme of Production" very fully, devoting some twenty-one pages to the elucidation of this comparatively simple problem. When he comes to the crucial question of "Socialism as a Scheme for the Distribution and Consumption of Wealth," however, his treatment is most superficial. In endeavoring to do full justice to socialism as an all-around industrial scheme, Dr. Ely should certainly devote more than five pages to this crucial question of distribution, upon which the socialists themselves have differed so widely ; and especially as he holds that the unequal distribution of wealth is the crying evil of our day.

To the question of the socialization of monopolies Dr. Ely has for some time been directing his attention. His reasoning is clear as to the benefits which must accrue from the gradual socialization of natural monopolies, and the careful weeding out of such artificial monopolies as are due to unwise legislation. The distinction between a natural monopoly on the one hand, and simply a large industry on the other, is also made quite clear, and the exclusion of land from the class of natural monopolies is again insisted upon.

All through his book Dr. Ely shows himself opposed to what is commonly known as Marxist socialism, and constantly decries the idea of a purely material development of society based on economic variation. Rather is he inclined to look upon socialism from its ethical side, and leave us with some choice in the matter. It is quite right to insist, with the Fabians, upon the moral concepts of socialism, but in dealing with the question of the socialization of

monopolies, it would seem that Marx and his disciples should in justice receive more credit. The ethics of socialism are all very well in the matter of social reform and in determining the attitude of the reformers ; but when the author admits that under our present régime all natural monopolies must come under the absolute control of the few, and that this in turn must lead to the necessity of their ultimate socialization, he would seem himself to be following step by step that very theory of economic evolution he cast aside only a moment before as too materialistic.

Dr. Ely has evidently written more for the general public than for the scientific few. Except for the chapters on monopolies there is little attempt at originality. The book, however, is well arranged, and interesting throughout. A series of appendices contain the platforms and principles of socialistic parties and societies, and a full bibliography.

LINDLEY M. KEASBEY.

BRYN MAWR COLLEGE.

Der Wucher: Eine Socialpolitische Studie. Von DR. LEOPOLD CARO. Leipzig, Duncker & Humblot, 1893. — 311 pp.

This is one of the shoal of writings that have been called forth of late years in Germany and Austria-Hungary by the agitation for the restoration, and now for the further elaboration, of the legal prohibition of usury. It distinguishes itself from most of them in that it does not confine itself to generalities, but devotes a long chapter of more than a hundred pages to the condition of affairs in a particular province, Galicia, "the classic land of usury"—a country with which the author is intimately acquainted and concerning which he has had peculiar opportunities of obtaining official information. Valuable as his statement of facts is, he would have added weight to his argument if he had attempted to determine the extent to which the evils he deplores are due to the presence of the village usurer, and the extent to which they are the result of the new freedom to dispose of their land which the peasants have only enjoyed since the emancipation. It may be added that if writers of Dr. Caro's opinions wish to convince "city-men" in the more advanced lands of Europe, not to mention economists in England and America, it would be well to dispense with vague denunciations of "Manchesterism," and equally vague explanations of the ethical purpose of the state, and to put in their stead a matter-of-fact description of a typical village in Galicia or elsewhere. The difficulty in controversies such as this about